

# Perspectives in Military History Roundtable

## 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Lecture Series

### George Washington's Strategic Vision for Winning the Revolutionary War

**Dr. Edward Lengel**

Professor, University of Virginia

At the outset of the Revolutionary War, the American Continental Army was largely undersupplied, untrained, and fighting for a divisive cause. General George Washington, the only officer with combat experience and the right political clout, choose to take command of a disheveled army of militiamen and lead them in battle against a global superpower. When he took command in 1775, Washington envisioned and developed a strategic plan at a level familiar to even today's best military planners. Dr. Edward Lengel of the University of Virginia, will host a roundtable discussion about why Washington took command, and how he implemented his strategic plan for victory.

The Continental Army faced a daunting task in 1775: defeat the well-supplied, and well-trained British Army. General Washington understood the fragility and complexity of the American military situation and identified the foundations of victory: a logistics system to ensure transportation of men and materiel on a grand scale, properly functioning intelligence systems, a regulated training program, firm shared interests with the American people, and the successful convergence of war on land and sea. Furthermore, Washington's army needed to gain international acceptance by fighting the British on traditional European terms, a strategy which proved challenging in the colonial environment. The lecture and roundtable event will shed light on the strategic mindset of America's first great general.

Dr. Edward Lengel is an American military historian and professor at the University of Virginia. He is also Editor-in-Chief of the Papers of George Washington documentary editing project at the University of Virginia. He earned his B.A. from George Mason University and his M.A. and Ph.D., both in history, from the University of Virginia. Dr. Lengel has written several pieces on Washington, including *General George Washington: A Military Life* and *Inventing George Washington: America's Founder, in Myth and Memory*.

**Special Event:** Make your trip to the USAHEC a full day of history! The USAHEC is proud to present the Mysteries in Military History event from 10:30AM to 2:30PM.

**DATE:** Saturday, August 20, 2016

**TIME:** The USAHEC opens to the public at 10:00 AM, and the roundtable discussion is from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

**PLACE:** USAHEC, Visitor and Education Center, Multi-Purpose Room

For more information on both events and any last-minute changes in meeting times and places, please check the USAHEC homepage: [www.carlisle.army.mil/ahec](http://www.carlisle.army.mil/ahec) or call the Information Desk: (717) 245-3972.